GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4830
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2002
INDO-USA TIES
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

the benefits India can achieve through joint training and exchange programmes with United States, port facilities to US warship engaged in operations in Afghanistan, to joining the US sponsored `Community of Democracies`?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

The joint training and exchange programmes with the United States is part of the process of strengthening mutually beneficial defence and security cooperation between India and the United States in pursuit of their shared goals of advancing peace, security and prosperity in Asia and beyond. Government supported the ongoing Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan against the Taliban and the Al Qaida, who have contributed to and supported terrorism directed against India. Government offered logistical support to the U.S. operations in accordance with existing guidelines for military assistance to friendly countries. As the largest democracy in the world, India`s participation in the Community of Democracies as a member of the Convening Group is natural.